

Good Garden Management

**Basic cultural practices for a
maintaining a healthy garden**

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Good gardening: a little can go a long way.

- Weeding
- Tilling & cultivating
- Mulching – keep weeds down, soil moist.
- Timing of watering – earlier in day.
- Sanitation
- Composting
- Crop rotation, companion planting, intercropping.

Sanitation

Keeping the garden clean: pest and disease control.

- Remove diseased/infested leaves, fruits, etc.
- Remove dying/dead plants.
- Keep tools clean.
- Pest control: spray or pick off bugs.

Compost, Till or Trash?

- A properly cared for compost pile will heat up to 160 °F: Sufficient to kill most pests.
- Place diseased material in center of pile.
- Keep watered & aerated by turning.
- BUT: many viruses survive compost; cool or unused compost encourages pests.
- Alternative: Bury diseased material (tilling), dispose in trash or away on turf.

Crop Rotation

- Avoiding disease buildup by moving crops around yearly.
- Aim for 3-5 year rotations for same crop in same area to avoid disease buildup.
- Method:
 - 1) Divide garden into subplots, rows or beds.
 - 2) Divide by crop type or family

Crop Rotation

- Divide garden into subplots or areas to rotate over time.

Tomatoes & Peppers	Lettuce	Beans	Onions
Carrots	Cabbage & Kale	Beets & Spinach	Flowers & Herbs

Crop Rotation

Main crop families:

- 1) Tomato, peppers, eggplant, potato
- 2) Cole: cabbage, mustards, Brussels sprouts, turnips, broccoli, cauliflower
- 3) Vines: cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, melons
- 4) Lettuce
- 5) Legumes: beans, peas
- 6) Onions, garlic
- 7) Carrots, parsnip, dill, cilantro
- 8) Beets, spinach, chard
- 9) Corn

Crop Rotation

Bed	Year			
	1	2	3	4
1	Tomatoes	Lettuce	Onions	Legumes
2	Legumes	Corn	Tomatoes	Lettuce
3	Lettuce	Onions	Carrots	Corn
4	Cole	Legumes	Vines	Tomatoes
5	Carrots	Tomatoes	Legumes	Beets
6	Vines	Carrots	Corn	Onions

Companion planting - Intercropping

Louise Riotte “Carrots Love Tomatoes”

- Carrots + Tomatoes, Carrots + Onions
- Corn + Squash, Onions + Squash
- Beans + Cabbage, Beans + Corn
- Onions – Beans & Peas
- Tomatoes – Corn
- Cucumbers – Strong Herbs (sage, savory, mint)

Encourage Diversity

- Plant flowers & herbs to attract pollinators & beneficial insects.
- Plant in borders or dotted in beds.
- Examples: mint, basil, thyme, oregano, savory, lavender, sage, salvia, catnip, parsley, dill, wormwood, daisies (Pyrethrum), marigolds.

